## The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JAN. 2, 1909.

FRANCOIS AROUET VOLTAIRE. Voltaire is still a subject of controversy because, by many of the controversialists, he is not well understood. Several letters about him have recently appeared in The Oregonian some of them tinged with the still surviving idea that his chief char-> teristic was bitter and mall mant opposition to religion, and especially to Christianity. But what he attempted, and what he succeeded in, more than any other man who ever lived, was to clear religious systems of intolerance. Voltaire is not classed with the great thinkers of the world. His energy and versatility were immense. One of the most noted of his blographers says; "Not the most elaborate work of Voltaire is of much value for matter, but not the very slightest work of Voltaire is devoid of value as form. In literary craftsmanship, at once versatile and accomplished, he has no superior and scarcely a rival." His prodigious reputation as a man or letters, during his lifetime, and for long afterwards, was such as no man of letters had ever borne before, or is likely ever to bear again. But this was not due to any profundity of thought; it was due to the unequaled skill with which he dealt with abuses of current thought and action. His contribution to the sum of human knowledge was not great, but his contribution to the cause of intellectual freedom was immense. It is no exaggeration to say that it was greater than that which ever has flowed from any other human mind. During a long period before Vol-

taire appeared on the scene of hu-man life and action, a condition had prevailed in which the rule of a religious system and the rule of a legal system were one and identical. was a world in which, to use a phrase of Sir Henry Maine, "the transgressors of religious ordinances were punished by civil penalties." The rule of the religious or ecclesiastical system was considered to rise superior to and to prevail over every temporal purpose for which the state exists. It was the highest potentiality of absolutism and oppression that has ever existed among men.

This was the system that was attacked by Voltaire, and by him, chiefly, overthrown. To the attack he brought the most marvelous resources of wit, of raillery, of satire, sarcasm and mockery, ever wielded by man. Nobody else, with pen s. trenchant, ever has attacked abuses, or turned absurdities to ridicule. For long this was interpreted by ecclesiastics as an attack on religion itself, and especially on Christianity; and many even vet are unable to look upon it in any other light. Hence there are church circles even yet in which mention of the name of Voltaire will produce a shudder. It is, however, no paradox to say that Voltaire, by exposure of abuses, errors and wrongs committed in the name of church and religion and in the combination of church and state, rendered a service to religion and to Christianity, to tolerance and to liberty, exceeding in value that which can be set down to the credit of

With the triumph in universal polities of the conception that spiritual interests were superior to the temporal welfare of men, the authority representing the former had risen supreme over the power of the tem-The conception was in eral state. full course of action throughout Europe, when Voltaire came upon the His cry became, "Elcrasez l'infame!" What was the Infamous Thing? It was religion claiming supernatural authority, and enforcing that claim by pains and penalties. It was religion, with the Bastille and the rack at its command. It was religion, says Parton, in his Life of Voltaire, which could put an ugly tall pot upon the head of a clown, a all over with tawdry raiment, and then set him squat down like a toad on the intellect of a nation. It was religion always keeping an ear open to receive the secrets of women not told to parent or husband. It was religion the mania of the weak, the cloak of the false, the weapon of the It was religion killing religion, and making virtue Eself contemptible by resting its claims on grounds untenable and ridiculous. It was religion wielding the whole mass of ignorance, indolence and cowardice, and placing it solid and entire in the only path by which the human race ald advance. It was the worst thing that ever was in the world. It was l'Infame

There has been much misrepresen tation of the meaning of Voltaire in the use of this opprobrious expression. But, says the writer of the article on Voltaire in the Britannica, "no careful student of Voltaire's works has ever falled to correct this gross misapprehension." "L'Infame" is not religion in itself, nor the Christian religion, nor the Roman Catholic Church, nor any form of Protestantism, which at the time was often less tolerant than Catholicism. It was It was religion claiming authority by direct revelation from Heaven, and employing to enforce the claim the power and resources of a government. This was what Voltaire attacked; this was what his work, more than that of all other men, undermined and over-So it is, therefore, that in spite of faults of gravest character. which every one can point out, almost the whole educated world now regards and long has regarded Voltaire one of the greatest benefactors of mankind.

British rallway trains, with their light cars and diminutive engines and with a matchless roadbed, make a cided on by the Bar Association. Scientific method begin and end with much better statistical showing of Fisher died a martyr to the cause of the year ought to begin and end with much better statistical showing of Fisher died a martyr to the cause of the year organics. December 21.

ican roads. The difference is also aided by labor conditions, there being more men than positions in Great Britain, while in this country the reverse is the case, thus making disci-pline more difficult here than in But with the automobile the two countries seem to be on fairly even terms, and there is a steady inrease in the number of accidents on both sides of the water. The secre-tary of the British Highways Protection League has just sent out statistics showing that during the months of July, August and September last year, 100 people were killed and 376 injured, compared with 88 killed and 307 injured in the same quarter for 1907

LATEST DEVICE FOR MORE TAXES. The Oregonian consents to and accepts the largest possible estimate of the population of Portland consist-ent with truth; but it is unwilling that any excessive estimate be made the basis of official extravagance, by

the Board of Health or other bureau. Are we to go on in Portland, and in Multnomah County, increasing official expenses and public obligations on the assumption that the city has a population of 250,000, and the county a population of 200,000, when both figures are greatly exaggerated? The registration of school population, and registration of voters, compared with hose of former times and with census results, of former years, indicate a population much below these figures. Since the school census of 1900 gave Multnomah a school population of 24,887; and the United States census of the same year gave the county a population of 103,167; and since the hool population of Portland District ow is 24 264, and of the county less than 38,000, what is the (probable) present population of the city and

ounty? The comparisons of registered votng population are altogether similar. Next year the census of the United States will be taken. We shall all see, then. The Oregonian's estimate is that the city will show a population of 160,000, and the county of 180,000. We could wish it twice as much; for then The Oregonian would have twice is many readers and advertisers. But we believe the public ruth and no exaggeration; and that officialdom already gets enough,

vithout exaggeration of estimates of opulation, in order to get more.

Portland is a fine city, and a rapdly growing city. But the demands of officialdom are tar outrunning its growth, with multiplying calls daily

MERRY BUT NOT WISE,

and hourly for "more."

The old song says "It is good to be nerry and wise." The revelers on the treets of Portland New Year's eve beyed the first part of the precept better than the last. Many of them were merry; if any were wise that fact was not apparent. It may be ssible to celebrate the advent of the New Year properly without private debauchery and public uproar, If it is impossible the fact is regret-The better taste of society has ceased to approve the mirth which is generated by alcohol. Why is that pecies of hilarity any more respectable on New Year's eve than at other times? If a "lady" may decently get drunk on the night of December why not on every other night of the year?

But it is the din the revelers kept up which interests us most. What is the use of it? Can not people be merry without howling and screeching, without blowing discordant horns and dragging outraged cowbells over the pavements? Once we thought it almost unendurable to listen to the bediam of July 4, although that seemed to be excused by a sort of barbaric patriotism. Now New Year's eve is just as horrible and there is imperinable evenue for it doubt the evil example will spread to other holidays and we shall have to go through the dread ordeal many times every year.

There is no excuse for it. People can enjoy themselves without ting others through torture and they ought to be compelled to do so or else forego their endoyment. Time was save a good time without termenting ome bear or bull. Now they are a little more civilized; they only torment human beings. It is the nervous, the sick, the man who has worked all day and needs sleep, the timid, who have to pass the hours in misery while our rejoicing hoodlums with their female companions raise bedlam on the streets. Their tumult is inane and idiotic. They do not sing carols like the boys in Germany; they do not exhibit a pretty street pageant like the Italians. They do nothing but toot horns and screech. It ought not to be permitted. Decent citizens have some rights which even hoodlums are bound to respect.

SPEEDY JUSTICE.

On November 28, in blind, passionate rage, James A. Finch murdered Ralph B. Fisher. Thirty days later, Finch was convicted of murder in the first degree, and now stands in the shadow of the gallows, with only the slightes possibility of escape from paying the full penalty for his crime. ember 17, William Burke and Jack Hayes, able-bodied young men, physically and mentally equipped for easily earning an honest living, or even a competence from the world, held up and robbed an O. R. & N. passenger train, failing to commit murder only because it might have embarrassed them in the accomplishment of their Twelve days later were convicted and sentenced to long terms in the penitentiary.

At midnight on December 30 Charles Braun and Al Miller, also physically and mentally able to make a good living at any honest employment, held up and robbed the crew of a streetcar. Within 24 hours they had been captured, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary. On New Year's day, when all decent, respectable, honest young men were looking forward with high hopes to what the year might bring forth, these two young men saw the penitentiary gates close behind them, not to swing outward for them until fifteen and twelve years, respectively, of the best part of their lives have

gone forever. This is good work, and it is in the speed with which justice has moved that its greatest merit lies. All three of these crimes were absolutely inex-Finch, with his almless, unorganized, disreputable methods of life, had brought disgrace on his pro-On Fisher, as the repreentative of clean lawyers like himself, had fallen the unpleasant duty of administering the punishment decided on by the Bar Association.

ut scant atonement for his crime.

The hold-up men were animated by a different purpose than that which caused Finch to fortify himself with false courage in the shape of bad whisky, and then proceed to do murbut their act was in its way equally offensive and dangerous to These criminals took a long Had justice been slow and chance. halting in any of these cases, the effect which laws are made for the purpose of producing would have been minimized or lost. As it is, the ex-ample of these four young men spending the best part of their lives in the penitentiary and of Finch suffering the maximum, although inade-quate, penalty for his crime, will have a wholesome effect on hundreds of other young men who may be inclined to waver at the unmistakable line between crime and decency.

RECORD OF A USEFUL LIFE.

Life was kind to Jacob Mayer. Through commercial ability, honesty and industry he laid, in his early manhood the foundation of a fortune which grew with the growth of Portland and the Northwest-slowly at first, but rapidly in later yearsremoving him, in the cheerful Autumn and early Winter of his years from all distractions of business. Nature had endowed him with a genial disposition, which developed as time ripened his powers into love for his fellow-men, which found expression in practical philanthropy and fraternal associations. Opportunity came to him early in life and he rose to meet it. His domestic ties were tender and he was faithful to them, and at the last, at the age of four score and three years, answered the sudden call of Nature quietly, and without suffering went to his final rest-life being kind

to him even in death. A useful citizen, a kind and provident husband and father, a Mason high in the councils of that ancient and honorable order, he lived his life and passed on, mourned by those who knew and loved him best, and leaving an honorable record in the community

THE CALENDAR, SO-CALLED.

Our divisions of time, for the greater part, are artificial and absurd. But the method has come down to us from ages when astronomical scince was still unknown. Rome, which didn't know how to make the calendar, still dominates our calendar. The word calendar itself is a product of the ignorance that prevailed at Rome, then the divisions of time, which we still preserve, began.

The natural divisions of time are the day, the lunar month and the solar year. There could not have been in the early time sufficient knowledge for computation by the movements of the other members of our solar system. Recurrence of the day soon made a measure of the day. Changing phases of the moon later gave another idea for division of time periods. Later still the solar yearhange and recurrence of seasons would supply data for computation of longer periods of time.
But the errors of the computation

that were made in Rome, twenty-five

hundred years ago, form the basis of our present calendar. They have duce been corrected by astronomical knowledge, but the nomenclature re-The Roman year was based on lunar observation. It consisted of en months. It was of course, repeatdly at variance with the solar year. Before the Julian reformation of the alendar, the Roman was a lunar year, which was brought or sought to be brought, into harmony with the solar by insertion of an intercalary The original system of the computation was to intercalate a month, alternately of 22 and 23 days, every other year during periods of twenty-two years. But the method the year much in advance of the time, and was obliged to borrow his refor-mation of the calendar from foreign The Etruscans had essed excellent astronomical knowldge, but the Romans, their conquer ors, had disdained to borrow it from them, and it had been lost. who made the Julian calendar had recourse, therefore, to Egyptian knowledge, which had close approxi-

mation to correctness. The month of July was therefore serted in the Roman calendar, to fill the gap. It was much the longest month in the year, and was a cor-rected substitute for the fifth month. took its name from the great Julius; but Octavius, his nephew and successor, believed the next following month (Sextilis) should be readjusted also, and renamed, so that he might have equal honor with his predecessor. Octavius had become Augustus, and the sixth month became the month of August. But the new and august ruler, Octavius, master of the Roman world, could not afford to have a shorter month than his uncle adoptive father; so he robbed the month of February of two (or three) days and transferred them to the month of August. Afterwards Febru-

ary was given the odd leap year day. The month of February itself was humble month. It was the month of purification, or Lent, in which there were no feasts. It was the month of explation, which the people were willing should be shortened; it was the month therefore from which Octavius (Augustus) could best sfeal the days necessary to equalize his fame with that of the great and original Caesar. Rome was built in fever and ague country. Terrible diseases have been prevalent in it down to our own time. Modern science makes the country more healthy by draining the marshes, by destruction of mosquitoes and protection against them, and by cultivation of the eucalyptus tree, introduced from Australia. Our words fever, febrile

and February are the same. Insertion of the months of July and August in the calendar makes the omers of the following months of the year. The Roman year began with the beginning of Spring: the month in it, and the only one, March (Martius, Mars) which bears the name of a god. The three following (April, May, June) came from ideas of sprouting, growing, thriving. Then the old order of arrangement was interrupted by insertion of the names of Julius and Augustus. Following is September, which means seventh, but now is ninth month; and so on. An indeterminate quantity still remained in the solar year, which was corrected much later, to a close difference, by so-called Gregorian calendar; but the year by this computation is

too long by about 26 seconds. With all these things we are so en tangled in our divisions of time that we probably never shall get a strictly scientific method. By such method safety than can be made by the Amer- decency in his profession. In giving the Winter solstice, December 21.

up his worthless life, Finch can make The day then is shortest, in our Northern hemisphere; the old year ends the new year begins. But we arbitrarily make the period 31-ten days after the day has begun

to lengthen. The day is a natural division of time; but our artificial subdivisions of it, in hours and minutes and seconds may not be the best that could be However, it may be good as devised. any, and certainly cannot be changed. The week, another artificial subdivision, is supported by an historical custom of very high antiquity-a custom that appears to have had its origin in Egypt, from worship of the seven then known planets, including the sun and moon. The Israelites received it in Egypt, and accepted it, as the Book of Deuteronomy expressly tells us as a memorial of their delivery out of bondage; and the seventh day, therefore, was to be a day of rest and

All this, of course, is very familiar to scholars; but The Oregonian is not written wholly for scholars, and if it were doubtless it would fall far short of requirements.

Mr. James J. Hill seems determined to make one final effort to prevent the Canadian Pacific from monopolizing the through traffic with the Orient The interstate commerce law as interpreted by the Commission compels the ailroads to file publicly the rates which they secure for the rail end of the haul to the Orient. Necessarily, in order to meet the competition of the Suez, and get cars to the Pacific Coast to load back with lumber, these rates are far below the regular rates charged to the Pacific Coast. As a resuit, dissatisfaction and probably litigation would follow the publication of the low through rate, although its advantages to the Pacific Coast industries are unquestioned. To avoid these complications and still do business, Mr. Hill has expended \$1,000,000 in securing terminals at Vancouver, B. ... and is reported to have plans for making that his Pacific Coast headquarters for all ocean business. It is regrettable in the extreme that the Interstate Commerce Commission failed to wind the alarm clock when it fell asleep over this most important matter.

"Pure Food" Wiley, of the Bureau of Chemistry, has announced that he will not resign, and that the President will not force him to vacate the The Minneapolis millers, position. however, are putting up a pretty hot fight against Mr. Wiley, and, if they are successful in the courts with their case against his bleached flour decision, his position will be anything but secure. The flour bleaching process which Dr. Wiley declared "adulteration" involves no substitution of materials, permits nothing in the way of the use of cheaper materials, and adds no new material to the product. It actually increases its cost over that of the "unbleached" flour, so that the usual object of adulteration is miss-Minneapolls millers are out inst. spoken in their bellef that crusade against bleached flour is being made in the interest of some of the breakfast-food makers, and they have raised a large fund to fight the Wiley have

decision Judge Hargis, of Kentucky, is dead, but the evil which he wrought, lives The town of Jackson, which the ruffianly Judge made famous in it. nfamy, is in the hands of two bands of armed men who have assembled to attend the trial of a member of one of the factions. The charge is murder and the Judge who was to preside at the trial is hiding in the woods and refuses to come out until he is assured of protection with the state troops Breathitt County, Kentucky, has for years been a disgrac to the Blue Grass State and to the Nation, and the outlaw element seems to be so overwhelmingly in the matority that it is diffiany decent individual can remain within its confines.

New Mexico and Arizona will make strenuous effort to secure statehood when Congress convenes after the close of the holiday recess. Some of the former citizens of these territories gave them rather a bad name among other states, but if the pro-moters of the statehood plan will only attention of Congress to Night-Riding Tennessee and Breathitt County Kentucky, our National lawmakers might devise a plan by which they could throw out Kentucky and Tennessee, and admit New Mexico and Arizona. They do not flog defensels women nor shoot men in the back in either of the territories

Reciting from memory yesterday, The Oregonian incorrectly quoted on of the quatrains of Fitz Gerald's "Omar." Following is the correct

and that inverted bowl we call the sky Lift not your hands to it for help-for

It seems that Finch's conviction is 'unconstitutional." Of course it fol-ows that to enter a man's office and shoot him down in cold blood is strictly constitutional. If this is true, what a pity it is that we have not less constitution and more sense in our criminal procedure.

Based on an estimated population of 250,000, the Portland health office finds we had the remarkably low death rate of 7.04 per thousand in We anxiously await news of 1908. the death rate for Seattle, based on an estimated population of, say, 350,-

A civil engineer named Smith shot and fatally wounded a hold-up man at Spokane Thursday night. New honor for the great name of Smith. Who wouldn't be proud to bear it?

The country will endeavor to recon clie itself to the idea of Brother Charlle remaining in private life for two more years, with leave to make the period indefinite.

Those humorous individuals who

blew the whistles yesterday morning

from 12 to 1 o'clock ought to have ten days each in solitary confinement with the whistles. "Of course," says the airy fairy Lillian Russell, "there are so my love letters I cannot publish."

Now we really wonder why There seems to be no way to get away from the New Year revelry Even the water wagon is well loaded

But if she was guileless her callers had The new year is safely here; but there seems to be no way to escape More deep than the wisdom of sages, And, 10, on the morrow, those jewels were Bryan's great "mystery of 1908." Lured by promise of extra good wages!

Begin your letters today '09.

DR. POHL ON CITY'S HEALTH UNIFY OREGON HIGH SCHOOLS. RICH IN CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAYS Ascribes Low Death Rate to Service of City Functionaries.
PORTLAND, Dec. 31.—(To the Edi-

or.)-Criticisms of the Health Department, which have appeared in editorial columns of late would lead the public to believe that the expenditures of this department had been warrantably increased during the past year. As a matter of fact, my report of 1907 showed the lowest death rate and the lowest expense per capita that has been rendered this city for years.

During the year 1908 better work was done than during preceding years at a per capita cost far below the aver-

which the city has paid for such service in the past, and as a result the death rate is the lowest on record for this city, and probably the lowest for any city the size of Portland in the United States.
These are the facts, as may be as-

pertained by any person interested, and statements which lend the public to believe that the expenses of this department are being increased and the standard of its work lowered are, to ay the least, unfair ESTHER C. POHL

Dr. Pohl's invitation to look into the

facts The Oregonian cheerfully accepts. This paper finds the quest even better rewarded than it expected Last year Dr. Pohl's Health Depart-

ent spent, of city funds, \$19,846.37. That was more than 21/2 times as much as her department spent in 1904-the year before she became one of its officers-and more than three times as much as it spent in 1900. In 1904 the expense was \$7958, and in 1900, \$5921. For 1909, her department has asked the city for \$28.658. In 1909 the Federal census showed

compulsory. It has, further, at great expense, prepared and published a course of study setting forth how these books shall be used and even from page to page in some instances prescribed the work to be done in each grade. Portland's death rate to be 914 persons for every 1000 population. That low death rate has not been equalled since, in splic of the extravagance and pretensions of Health Officers. Efforts to derive as low a mortality rate for last year or the year before, out of inflated population statistics, will be futile.

Last year the City Health Department cost \$6426 more than in 1907 \$19,935 more than in 1966 and \$3922 more than in 1966, yet there was no corresponding decrease in mortality. On the ontrary, there was more death increase a 1907 than in any other year in the his ory of the city. The deaths in 1906 numbered 1486, and in 1907, 1860.

Portland is one of the healthlest cities of the world. In 1900 the Federal census showed St. Joseph, Mo., the only important city in the United States with a lower death rate. The causes of the low mortality in Portland, as most persons know, are pure water good drainage and healthful dlimate These three factors do more to keep people alive than all the doctors, pillmixers, health officers, deputies, inspectors, of ficial physicians, clerks and stenographers put together.

These are some of the facts contained n the city records. If the search shall be continued, others even more interesting may be ascrtained.

A lot of functionaries are drawing pay from the public treasury and tryng to make jobs for others. In Portland are three separate Health Boards and state and National pure food offices, all striving to make a living out of the public. The city supports one board, the county another and the state a third. The thrifty officers of the Cfty Board, not content with their ity emoluments, take extra fees from the county. It might be healthler for the public to be spared this burden of officialdom.

Kermit Roosevelt's Opinion of "Dad." Pittsburg Dispatch. Members of the general council of the National Civil Service Reform League got away for their homes on late trains after a brief closing ses-sion of the council, at which they ion of the council, at which they wound up the business of the three ays convention. But the members ook home with them some good stor es that will not appear in the pub-

Charles H. Brooks, of Massachusetts, during a committee session, gave the reform leaguers the benefit of young Kermit Roosevelt's personal sizeup of his distinguished dad. Young Kermit, who is a student at Harvard, one day last month, according to Mr. Brooks, told one of his chums. told one of his chums; "The whole trouble with dad is that

"The whole trouble with day that a large percentage of which when he goes to a wedding he wants to be the bride, and when he goes to a tants till the soil in a way that does funeral he wants to be the corpse."

The whole trouble with day that a large percentage of which the soil in a way that does not give the best results, or results that should be expected. mitting himself.

It Was Horrible.

Chicago Tribune. Society Leader (with a steely glitter her eye)—Are you the editor of this

paper? The Mere Man-Yes, ma'am; what an I do for you? Society Leader—In response to question by your society editor yester-day. I said that at the hard-times party we are going to have, I would appear in negligee costume. In your paper this morning, sir, it was printed "negligible ostume"

Nat Goodwin to Dabble in Stocks.

New York Dispatch. Gossips in New York say that Nat Goodwin, the actor, will open a broker-age office in that city early next month. The price of Rawhide Coali-tion stock, in which Goodwin is said to be heavily interested, recently broke from \$1.40 to 75 cents and sold later down to 65 cents. Recently it was reported that Goodwin was worth \$1,-

It Will Be Easy.

Chicago Evening Post.
The House of Representatives asks
the President for "facts" concerning the
need of watching Congressmen with secret service agents. Mr. Roosevelt will now turn back to page 1, column 1, of the Western laud frauds testimony and proceed to deliver the goods.

Marshall Field Block, \$7,000,000. New York Dispatch. Heirs of Marshall Field are

ning a Fifth avenue 18-story building, to represent a \$7.000,000 investment. The house will cover the block front on the east side of Fifth avenue, from Thirtieth to Thirty-first street. Rich Yield From 35-Foot Whale.

Baltimore News. A whale 35 feet long, caught by Cap-tain Joseph Edwards and crew in Long Island Sound, will produce from 15 to 28 barrels of oil and 400 or 500 pounds of bone. This will bring the men from

After Effects From Hasebell-Bat Blow.
Indianapolis (Ind.) Dispatch,
Roy Mellott, aged 15, of Attica, Ohio,
is suddenly stricken deaf and dumb
and remains in that condition, although in other respects his health is
good. A year ago he was struck on
the head with a baseball-bat and made
uncorrectors for a short time. \$1000 to \$1500 each. Jewels Lured Away Clara Marshall in New York Journal.
"Behold, here, my Jewels, my rare price-less gems!"
Cried boustful but artless Cornelia,
As, hard at their work in her orderly flat,
She pointed out Gretchen and Cella.

unconscious for a short time. An Ounce of Prevention.

Secretary Portland Board of Trade.

After Effects From Baseball-Bat Blow

Puck. Mmmie-How did you know I was going to call? Her Little Sister—I saw Nell taking the pins out of her belt."

Call for Uniform Examinations Under

State Supervision.

diplomas issued by the state on the successful passing of examinations. State Superintendent Ackerman was

Now, there is something so abso-

lutely incongruous and ridiculous in the situation that if pointed out the

people of Oregon will not hesitate through their legislative body to make

ample financial provision for more ef-fective High School work and for state

rective high Schools were and to supervision of fligh Schools.

This is the absurdity. The state has assumed and exercised at great expense the right to adopt a state series of text books and has made their use

Flere the state stops short. It never

visits the schools to witness the degree of compliance, it issues no certificates of proficiency or diplomas. It requires no maximum of attainment, it con-demns no minimum of failure. Hav-

ing established the plant at great ex-pense, it never goes near it to see that

used. As a result it is a free-for-all, a go-as-you-please in the High Schools

standards—with nothing for a pupil to show who may have completed ever so much, but who stopped short of the

Under a proper system of school or-

ganization any pupil who has pursued and finished a study should have been given an imparifal examination, uni-

form to all pupils in the state in that study and should have been furnished

n successful passing a passcard or ertificate that would be recognized a every High School of the state and

I insist that there is need of serious attention to this topic, and nothing of more importance to the state. I intend to bring this matter to the per-

sonal notice of every member of the Legislature and I ask leave to begin

Legislature and I ask leave to be so with the public through your columns. I believe the people can be trusted to direct the right thing when their attention is called to the facts.

WINFIELD S. SMITH.

Farming the One Vocation That Has

Too Little Competition.

PORTLAND, Jun. 1 - (To the Edi-

or.)-I read with a great deal of inter-

tor.)—I read with a great deal of interest your editorial "The Carloads and Trainloads," and with your permission, desire to add a few suggestions:

Farming is today the only business not overdone. All men have a desire to make a success in life. This desire to make a success in life. This desire

is strongest in young men about to leave the parental roof. They specu-late most at this time, in choosing an

weigh carefully, if the field for which

ie believes himself best adapted is full

or overdone. Rather than enter a field

may desire, he had better prepare him-self for a field for future competency that is not so full of competitors.

In looking over our great state, we find thousands upon thousands of acre-

of land yet uncultivated. We also find

Now, taking into consideration the

comparative cheapness of lands and the broad acres yet untouched, and the demand for the products of the

ndependent means of obtaining a com-

setency and chances to enter a field

underdone, it seems, though many de-sire a profession, to prepare for intelli-

gent farming affords exceptional op-

portunities to the young man.

A great deal of waste of fertility is

going on now, and will not stop until economic requirements bring about a change. In other words, quantitative

farming, which is careless and ineffi-cient, must give way to intelligent intensive and conservative farming.

Considering the superior advantages

of Oregon's soil and climate, ft is hard

to conceive why great sums which go out of the state annually to buy so

many things which our farms could supply should not remain within the state, to enhance our presperity. Periodical displays of the products

of the field, the garden, the stock, the dairy, the pantry, the kitchen, the smokehouse of the farm, and also of

the products of the industries of the neighboring towns, will furnish object

lessons which will result in a dissemi

farm, as well as its being the mos

meager

full of competitors with a mean knewledge, though it is a business

There are many things

onwideration

upation to follow for a competency.

Principal Brownsville High School

the university pro tanto.

he money already expended is

whole course.

cheir merits

themselves, with no uniformity

and explained that he wou

standard of proficiency.

Year 1909 Will Be Distinguished for Important Anniversaries.

Distinguished beyond any previous BROWNSVILLE, Or., Dec. 30 .- (To year within the memory of man for the the Editor.)-As the Legislature is number and importance of centennial about to convene, I desire to call attenanniversaries of the birthdays of famous tion to a state-wide matter of pripersons is the year of 1909. The new mary importance—the unification of year also marks the tercentenary celethe free High Schools, and the estabbration of some historic events. lishment of an impartial and uniform year 1809 brought into the world a re-markable array of men whose achieve-On the first of December I presented ments will be glorified as long as civilisaat the Linn County Teachers' Institute, tion lasts. In that year Abraham Lanin the High School section thereof, a coln first saw the light of day in Hardin resolution calling for a Legislative committee to foster a state system of examination questions in all High County, Ky., and on the same day, February 11, though under a far different examination questions in all High School subjects, said questions to emanate from the State Board of Eduenvironment, Charles Darwin, destined to become one of the world's most Rcation or State Superintendent, and to be uniform for all schools desiring them, and a system of passcards and lustrious biologists, was born at

Shrewsbury, England. The field of literature and poetry was vastly enriched that same remarkable year by the birth of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Edgar Allan Poe, Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Alfred Tennyson. The year 1800 also gave to the world of music one of its finest exponents, Felix Mendelssohn.

present and explained that he would like to issue questions for the ninth grade, as now for the eight, and that, owing to small allowance of appropriations for his department of state affairs, such a plan could not be carried In 1809 Robert Fulton, whose efforts to establish steam navigation on the Hud-son River had been fully demonstrated to be successful, took out his first pat-ents. Two hundred years earlier Henry Hudson sailed up the same river in search of a passage to India, while Samuel de Champlain was exploring from the north and discovered the great Samuel de Champiain was exporting from the north and discovered the great lake which bears his name and which is intimately connected with the colonial and Revolutionary wars.

All of these historic birthdays and events will be magnificently celebrated desires the year 1999.

during the year 1909.

Naturally the greatest and most far-reaching centennial celebration will be that of the birthday of Abraham Lin-coln. In every part of the United States, in England. France and other foreign lands, the birth of the great emancipator will be observed. Elaborate arrangments are under way at Springfield, Ill., the resting place of the immortal President's ashes, for a monster memorial in which such distinguished representatives of other nations as Ambassador James P. Bryce, of England, and Ambassador J. J. Jusserand, of France, will add their tributes to those of noted Ameri-can orators and statesmen. Chicago, can orators and statesmen.

New York and every large city will hold spieudic memorial celebrations, and every town and village throughout the land will town and village throughout the less add their humbler but none the less sincere and patriotic meed of homage to the memory of the man who saved

. . . A benefactor to his country and the civilized world, born in 1806, stands Cy-rus Hall McCormick. He gave to the rus Hall McCormick. He gave to the world the grain-cutting machine which revolutionized the wheat industry and served, perhaps, more than any other one thing in building up the great West said caused an increase in America's production of wheat, within half a contury, from less than 50,000,000 bushels to over 700,000,000 bushels.

In the university pro tanto.

The examinations need not be compulsory in the larger cities, but should be offered, and in a short time their stimulating effect would be felt and they would be universally adopted on their marks. That same month of February in 1899 which gave to America the illustrious Lincoln and the genius McCormick endowed England with the eminent nat-uralist, Charles Robert Darwin, born February 12, and bestowed upon Germany and the world Felix Mendelssohn, whose musical compositions have touched and thrilled the hearts of untold mitand thrilled the hearts of untold milllous. Crowned with high honors and
recognized as foremost among the masters of music in an age which counted
such artists as Liszt and Chopin, Mendelssohn's brilliant career was out short
at the very zenith of his fame. He was
born in Hamburg February 5, 1809, and
died November 4, 1847.
Darwin died in 1882, having devoted
the 50 years of his life after his graduation from Christ College, Cambridge,
to the study and research into the
selence of nature. ENTER FIELD NOT OVERFILLED

to the science of nature.

Of the four luminaries in the field of literature whose lives dawned in 1809 and whose centennial anniversaries will be celebrated during the coming year, two were born in England and two in the United States, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Edgar Alian Poe were both born in Massachusetts, the latter in January and the former in August. In England Tennysen was born Augu Elizabeth Barrett Browning March 6. The Hudson-Fulton memorial celebra-tion will be held in New York next Fall on a magnificent scale and will continue for a week. One of the features will be pageant which, it is claimed, lippe anything of the kind in the world's history.

Mr. Taft and Federalism.

Columbus (O.) State Journal. In his speech at the American Civid Federation Judge Taft said this: Federation Judge Taft said this:

"I think now that we can depend upon the acumen, the patriotism and the ability of the members of the Supreme Court of the United States to recognize the necessities that from time to time arise in our progress, to so construct the constitution as to senable us to carry out the reforms that are needed as the Nation advances."

Here we the words of Republican

Here are the words of Republican statesmanship, which mean that the constitution grows in correspondence with the progress and aspiration of the with the progress and aspiration of the American paople. It means that every year, as civilization advances and reaches higher grounds, the constitution must be given a wider outlook. Former precedents become antiquated and obstruct the National evolution. That is the idea Judge Tart expresses. He relies upon the patriotism of the Supreme Court "ia so construe the constitution as to anable us to carry out the reforms that are needed as the Nation advances." The "accumen, the Nation advances." The "acumen, the patriotism, the ability" of the Supreme Court are relied upon to see that nothing interferes with the National evolution. This is Federalism, which figures in every forward step the Republic makes.

Sunday Evening Newspaper Isn't New. Altchison Glob

Altchison Globe.

Frank A. Munsey is being generally credited by the newspapers of the country with being the first man to print a Sunday evening paper, which is the present schedule of his Washington (D. C.) Times. But the Springfield (Mass.) Republican, tells of a paper at Providence, R. L., which has been issuing a Sunday evening paper for about 15 years, and another paper at New Orleans which issues seven afternoon papers a week. Mr. Munsey's latest venture, therefore, seems to be nothing new under the sun, although the Times is the first daily of National reputation to occupy the Sunnation and consequent increase of these various productions. From year to year these exhibitions would demonstrate the progress made in the localities where they are held, and the effect of this progress toward augmenting the value of property, aside from the educational advantages, may be readily imagined. Under the able guidance of the Oregon Development League, a general plan for the agricultural progress of our beloved state by means of local, district and State Fairs should be mapped out. Such fairs should present to view in National reputation to occupy the Sun as abundant quantities as may be ob as abundant quantities as may tainable the best specimens of the agricultural and even industrial productions of the locality, district or state. All other ideas of fairs such as the offering of prizes, etc., should be incorporated. FRED MULLER, day evening field.

Bryan and Gompers.

Kansas City Star.

It is no more than fair that Mr. Bry-an should "stand by Gompers," inas-much as Gompers stood by Bryan right valiantly when Bryan was not much nearer right than Compers is now.

One Fly in the Olutment.

Kansas City Star.

Andrew Carnegle insisted upon issuing a "Christmas greeting" to his countrymen. Otherwise it was a singularly merry Christmas.

Sables or Pearls.

Philadelphia Bulletin. She looked at the little man archly. "Hubby," she said, "do you know you are beginning to grow rather hand-